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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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TAGS: ABLD, UR, US -

SUBJECT:NEW CHANCERY PROJECTS: SOVIETS PRESENT PLANS FOR
WASHINGTON AND COMMENT ON US PLANS FOR MOSCOW

1. M.V. POSOKHIN, MOSCOW CHIEF ARCHITECT, ACCOMPANIED BY
SOVIET MINISTER-COUNSELOR VORONTSOV, COUNSELOR MYSHKOV,
AND FOUR AIDES, MET WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION (NCPC)
MAY 10. FBO AND EUR/SOV OFFICERS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN
THE MEETING. POSOKHIN PRESENTED HIS PLANS TO THE GROUP
AND DESCRIBED ARCHITECTURAL ASPECTS OF THE SOVIET CHANCERY
COMPLEX.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, POSOKHIN AND VORONTSOV
ANSWERED QUESTIONS OF NCPC STAFF MEMBERS ON DETAILS OF
SOVIET DESIGN. AREAS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST INCLUDED
VEHICULAR ACCESS TO MT. ALTO SITE, SURFACE PARKING AREAS,
AND DESIGN FOR CONSULAR DIVISION OFFICE AND PARKING LOT
FACING SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLINGS ON TUNLAW ROAD.

3. NCPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHARLES CONRAD, OUTLINED
COMMISSION'S APPROVAL PROCEDURE, INCLUDING REVIEW OF PLANS
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BY TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND SUBMISSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL

IMPACT STATEMENT BEFORE FORMAL CONSIDERATION BY COMMISSIONERS. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS EXPLAINED THAT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT WOULD BE PREPARED BY DEPART-

MENT ON BEHALF OF SOVIET CHANCERY PROJECT. CONRAD TOLD SOVIETS THAT NCPC WOULD ATTEMPT TO COMPLETE DETAILED STAFF REVIEW OF PROJECT IN TIME FOR INFORMAL PRESENTATION TO THE FULL COMMISSION AT MAY 30 MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC BUT THAT FORMAL PRESENTATION COULD NOT BE HELD BEFORE COMMISSION'S JUNE 27 MEETING. (IF JUNE 27 DATE NOT MET, NEXT COMMISSION MEETING WOULD BE AUG. 2) CONRAD SUGGESTED POSOKHIN RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR THE FORMAL PRESENTATION. ALL MEETINGS BEFORE THE FULL COMMISSION WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

4. POSOKHIN, MYSHKOV, AND SOVIET PROJECT CHIEF ENGINEER B.F. ILLARIONOV MET AT FBO MAY 13 WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND AMERICAN ARCHITECTS CHARLES BASSETT AND JORDAN GRUZEN FOR DISCUSSION OF US PLANS FOR MOSCOW CHANCERY. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS EXPLAINED REASONS FOR PARTIAL PRESENTATION OF US PLANS. ARCHITECTS NOTED THAT 5 OR 6-MAN TEAM WOULD LIKE TO VISIT MOSCOW TO OBTAIN DETAILED INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR COMPLETION OF PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION, PART 2A OF CONDITIONS OF CONSTRUCTION. POSOKHIN AGREED TO PRINCIPLE OF VISIT AND SAID HIS STAFF WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS WITH US TEAM, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS AVAILABILITY.

5. POSOKHIN ASKED ABOUT US ARCHITECTS' PLANS FOR EXTERIOR SURFACES OF OFFICE BUILDING AND HOUSING, AS WELL AS PLANNED APPEARANCE FOR ROW HOUSES. US ARCHITECTS REPLIED THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF BRICK, STONE, OR HAMMERED CONCRETE FOR EXTERIORS. ROW HOUSES AND APARTMENTS WOULD INCLUDE DIVERSE SURFACES, VARIED ENTRANCES AND WINDOWS TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF INDIVIDUAL DWELLING UNITS SIMILAR TO BEST QUALITY US OR LONDON URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS. ON MATERIALS, POSOKHIN SAID THAT SANDSTONE FROM CRIMEA IS IN SHORT SUPPLY AND ONLY SOVIET RED BRICK SUITABLE FOR FACING IS MADE IN RIGA AND NOT AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT TO MOSCOW. HIGH QUALITY CREAM-COLORED FACING BRICK IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVAILABLE IN MOSCOW.

6. US ARCHITECTS NOTED THAT UNEVEN ROOF OF SCHOOL AND MSG QUARTERS BUILDING NECESSITATED BY SOVIET ZONING ENVELOPE WOULD PRESENT DIFFICULT ARCHITECTURAL PROBLEM. POSOKHIN SAID HE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SUBSTITUTION OF SINGLE FLOOR OVER ENTIRE BUILDING FOR TWO STORY MSG QUARTERS IN ORIGINAL PLAN.

7. OTHER THAN MILD DISAPPOINTMENT AT LACK OF RUBBER-STAMP NCPC APPROVAL OF HIS DESIGN TWO WEEKS AFTER PLANS PRESENTED TO DEPARTMENT, POSOKHIN APPEARED PLEASED WITH HIS RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON. HE SEEMED TO ENJOY PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGES

WITH HIS US COUNTERPARTS.

8. DEPARTMENT PLANS TO HAVE ARCHITECT/FBO TEAM VISIT MOSCOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TENTATIVELY EARLY JUNE. WILL ADVISE TIMING WHEN SELECTION OF PERSONNEL FIRM. TEAM WOULD PLAN TO MEET SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH SOVIETS IN TECHNICAL SPECIALITY GROUPS. TEAM WILL REQUIRE 2 OR 3 INTERPRETERS FOR SEPARATE MEETINGS. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTY MEETING INTERPRETER REQUIREMENT FROM EMBASSY RESOURCES, AND WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY ASSESSMENT AVAILABILITY QUALIFIED ASSISTANCE FROM UPDK, INTOURIST, CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATIONS, OR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. TEAM VISIT TO MOSCOW WILL BE CRITICAL ELEMENT IN US PLANNING AND DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE ALL ASSISTANCE EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE, PARTICULARLY WITH INFORMATION ON QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY SOVIET CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THIRD COUNTRY PURCHASE WHERE NECESSARY. RUSH

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